BELFAST CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2026

School Board Members Present: Jonathan Barney, Russ Calanni, Randa Harrington, Ashley Moore, Josie Preston, Marc Smithers, Ella Austin, Ex-Officio Student BOE Member
Absent: Becky Backer,
District Personnel: Wendy Butler Ed. D, Superintendent, Rick Bull, 5-12 Principal, Chelsey Aylor, PK-4 Principal, Keegan Harrington, Business Manager, Gina Larrabee, District Clerk
Others: Danielle Bainbridge, Brent Kelley

At 5:29 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Clerk of the Board.
Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Officers/Oath of Office

Clerk of the Board Administered the Oath of Office to Board Member Marc Smithers.

Public Presentation

Community member Brent Kelley addressed the Board.

Financial

Keegan Harrington, Business Manager, presented Budget Status and Revenue Status reports, June and July warrants and Claims Audit report, and June and July Treasurer's Reports. Mr. Harrington shared Energy Enterprise's recommendation and explanation for the electric bid option. He also shared the 2026-27 final school tax information stating the change is less than a quarter of a percent. Mr. Harrington spoke about Ed Data, a "different purchasing system to take advantage of bidding on typical school expenditures".

Leadership Reports

Miss Ella Austin, Ex-Officio Student BOE Member shared that the school year is starting well. She stated it seems quite calm. When asked if there is anything students would improve, she said the backpack rule has been challenging to get used to.
Principal Rick Bull shared that the school year is getting off to a good start. He said the main office has been busy helping students with schedules, driving passes, and all the things a new year brings. Mr. Bull provided summer school attendance numbers.
Principal Chelsey Aylor supported Miss Austin's statement saying everyone is happy to be back. Mrs. Aylor spoke about this year's Professional Learning schedule explaining there are a lot of opportunities for teachers.
Dr. Wendy Butler talked about the 2026-27 District Goals, we will continue what we have established. Of AI, she stated we need to teach our students how to use it appropriately. She also noted our continued work in *Portrait of a Graduate*, "an official statewide framework created by the New York State Education Department that defines the essential skills, knowledge, and character traits students should develop by the time they finish high school". Dr. Butler discussed that we are approving our Safeguarding Immigrant Students Plan, Workforce Development Plan, and BCS Crisis Plan.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Randa Harrington, seconded by Ashley Moore, adopted the following Consent Agenda Items as recommended by the superintendent: Unanimously carried

Approved the minutes from the July 14, 2026, meeting.
Approved the Treasurer's reports dated June and July 2026.
Approved the CSE/ CPSE/ 504 committee recommendations as presented.
Adopted the 26-27 BCS District Goals and Action Steps as presented.
Approved the Belfast Central School Safeguarding Immigrant Students Plan.
Approved the Belfast Central School Workforce Development Report.

Approved the 26-27 BCS Crisis Plan.
Approved the 26-27 BCS Crisis Plan: Support for Staff.
Approved the updated 26-27 Extracurricular Handbook.
Awarded a one-year electric bid award to Energy Coop of America with a bid of $0.02429 per kwh.
Approved the updates to Policy 5676: Privacy and Security for Student Data and Teacher and Principal Data.
Approved the updated 26-27 District Safety Plan.
Approved out-of-district student(s) for the 26-27 school year.

PK-6 Students	Grade	Home District
Brielle Whitesell	PK	Friendship

Board Actions

Resolution Issuing SEQRA Negative Declaration for Proposed Capital Improvements Project, 2026

Motion by Marc Smithers, seconded by Randa Harrington, approved a SEQRA resolution for the proposed 2026 Capital Improvement Project, as recommended by the superintendent.

WHEREAS, the Belfast Central School District (the "District") and its Board of Education (the "Board") propose to undertake Capital Improvement Project, 2026 to upgrade the District's buildings, facilities, and campus; and

WHEREAS, the District and its Board, as the lead agency, have undertaken an environmental review of this Unlisted action in accordance with State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") regulations, and duly considered the proposed project, the SEQRA Environmental Assessment Form, the criteria for determining whether the action will have a significant adverse impact on the environment as set forth in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. § 617.7(c) of the SEQRA regulations, and such other information deemed appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the District/Board identified the relevant areas of environmental concern, took a hard look at these areas, and made a reasoned elaboration of the basis for its determination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that:

1. The District/Board is the lead agency under SEQRA to review this Unlisted action, and the Belfast Central School District Capital Improvements Project, 2026 will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment.

2. The attached Negative Declaration, incorporated herein by reference, is issued and adopted for the reasons stated in the attached Negative Declaration, and the Environmental Assessment Form is also incorporated herein by reference.

3. The Superintendent of the District is authorized to sign and file or have filed on behalf of the District/Board all documents necessary to comply with SEQRA.

4. This resolution is effective immediately.

Unanimously carried

Resolution as to a Special Meeting and Vote for Capital Project Approval

Motion by Randa Harrington, seconded by Jonathan Barney, approved a vote and special meeting for the proposed 2026 Capital Improvement Project, as recommended by the superintendent.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Belfast Central School District, Allegany County, New York (the "District"), as follows:

Section 1. That the provisions of this resolution shall be effective regardless of anything to the contrary in the policies of this Board, or the previous minutes of this Board, or otherwise.

Section 2. That the Board wishes to propose a capital improvements project involving the partial reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof), all as described in greater detail in Proposition No. 1 in the legal notice set forth below (collectively, the "Project") and, as part of that process, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"), an Environmental Assessment Form has been completed for the Project, which is an Unlisted action under SEQRA, a thorough review of the Project's potential environmental impacts has been undertaken, it has been found that the Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment, and a written, reasoned elaboration of the SEQRA determination of significance has been provided in a Negative Declaration.

Section 3. That a special meeting and vote of the qualified voters of the District (the "Special Meeting and Vote") will be held in the conference room/Board of Education meeting room in the District Office at the school building located at 1 King Street, Belfast, New York, on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 12:00 Noon, prevailing time, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition hereinafter set forth.

Section 4. That the notice of the Special Meeting and Vote, including the proposition to be voted upon, shall be in substantially the following form, to-wit:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND VOTE

BELFAST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK

The Board of Education of the Belfast Central School District, Allegany County, New York (the "District") HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that a special meeting and vote of the qualified voters of the District (the "Special Meeting and Vote") will be held on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026** in the conference room/Board of Education meeting room in the District Office at the school building located at 1 King Street, Belfast, New York, at 12:00 Noon, prevailing time, for the purpose of voting by paper ballots upon the proposition hereinafter set forth. Polls for the purpose of voting will be kept open between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time, on that day. This assumes that the polling place is open and can be safely accessed in accordance with the terms of any prevailing law(s), executive order(s) or other directive(s) from controlling authorities that may be in effect on that day. If on November 17 the polling place cannot be so accessed, or if the polling place is closed on that day due to inclement weather (or for any other reason), it is the present intention of the District that the Special Meeting and Vote will be held on the day on which the polling place is next open and may be safely accessed, with the voting hours remaining the same. In such a situation, voters are asked to please consult the District's website for guidance on the timing of, and procedures for holding, the re-scheduled Special Meeting and Vote.

PROPOSITION NO. 1
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, 2026

Shall the following resolutions be adopted, to-wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Belfast Central School District, Allegany County, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to undertake a proposed "Capital Improvements Project, 2026" (the "Project") consisting of the partial reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof), at an estimated maximum cost of $2,300,000, to implement various health, safety, accessibility and Code compliance measures that are required by the State Education Department in connection with any significant capital improvements project and various other measures that are generally described in (but are not to be limited by) the written plan for the Project that was prepared by the District with the assistance of CPL Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architect and Surveyor, D.P.C. (the "Project Plan"), which is available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk, with such work being anticipated to include, without limitation and to the extent as and where required, the particular elements that are described generally below. Proposed improvements are anticipated to include work at the main building such as mechanical upgrades, new boilers and select unit ventilators with cooling and other improvements such as select ceilings, flooring, and interior and exterior doors. Work at the bus garage is anticipated to include school bus lift replacement and associated work. Proposed site work is anticipated to include reconstruction of the auditorium parking area including underdrainage. Possible alternate work is anticipated to include interior finishes If the budget allows after receiving construction bids or if other items are identified, additional similar renovations, upgrades, and site work improvements could be undertaken. All of such work (or so much thereof as can be accomplished within the overall budget for the Project, once the construction bids are received) is to be undertaken at an estimated maximum cost of $2,300,000, and will include the purchase of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required in connection with the purposes for which such buildings, facilities and sites are used, and all ancillary or related work required in connection therewith, and the Board is authorized to expend therefor, including for preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated maximum cost of $2,300,000, provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Project (as generally described in the Project Plan) may be reallocated among such components, or such components may be deleted, revised or supplemented if (1) the Board shall determine that such reallocation, deletion, revision or supplementation is in the best interests of the District and (2) the aggregate amount to be expended for the Project shall not exceed $2,300,000 and (3) no material change shall be made in the overall scope and nature of the Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board is hereby authorized to expend or apply toward the Project (during the current fiscal year of the District) $200,000 from the District's Capital Improvement Reserve Fund that was established in May of 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a tax is hereby voted to finance the balance of the estimated maximum cost of the Project in an amount not to exceed $2,100,000, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District including, without limitation, serial bonds, statutory installment bonds, bond anticipation notes and/or lease/purchase obligations, or any combination thereof, are hereby authorized to be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed $2,100,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations as the same shall become due and payable; and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State Building Aid funds expected to be received by the District are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds shall, to the extent received, be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that such Proposition No. 1 shall appear on the ballot sheets to be utilized for voting in substantially the following abbreviated form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, 2026

YES NO

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit:

RESOLVED, that (a) the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Belfast Central School District, Allegany County, New York (the "District") is hereby authorized to undertake a proposed Capital Improvements Project, 2026 (the "Project") consisting of the partial reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof), to implement various health, safety, accessibility and Code compliance measures and various other measures that are included and generally described in (but are not to be limited by) the Project Plan that was referred to in the public notice of the vote on this Proposition, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed $2,300,000; (b) the Board is hereby authorized to partially finance the Project by utilizing $200,000 from the District's Capital Improvement Reserve Fund that was established in May of 2022; (c) a tax is hereby voted in an amount not to exceed $2,100,000 to finance the balance of the estimated maximum cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board; (d) in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed $2,100,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations as the same shall become due and payable; and (e) New York State Building Aid funds expected to be received by the District in connection with the Project are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that an Environmental Assessment Form has been completed for all of the anticipated work involved in the Project, which constitutes an Unlisted action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"), a thorough review of the Project's potential environmental impacts has been undertaken, it has been found that the Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment, and a reasoned elaboration of the SEQRA review and findings has been provided in a Negative Declaration.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that military voters who are qualified voters of the District may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk. For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application by not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23, 2026. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots may be obtained at the office of the District Clerk between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., prevailing time, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the Special Meeting and Vote, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on the day before the Special Meeting and Vote, if the ballot is to be issued personally to the voter at the District Clerk's office. The list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection in the office of the District Clerk, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., prevailing time, until the day set for voting, except for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. No absentee ballot will be canvassed unless it is received prior to 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on November 17, 2026, in the office of the District Clerk, 1 King Street, Belfast, New York.

Dated: September 8, 2026

Belfast, New York

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
BELFAST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK

By:____

District Clerk

Section 5. That the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice to be given of such Special Meeting and Vote, in substantially the form hereinbefore prescribed, by publishing the same four (4) times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding the date of the Special Meeting and Vote, the first publication to be at least 45 days (but not more than 49 days) before the Special Meeting and Vote, in the Olean Times Herald, which is the only newspaper having general circulation in the District, and by giving such other notice as in the District Clerk's discretion may be deemed advisable.

Section 6. That the temporary use of available funds of the District, not immediately required for the purpose or purposes for which the same were borrowed, raised or otherwise created, is hereby authorized pursuant to Section 165.10 of the Local Finance Law, for the purpose or purposes described in this resolution.

Section 7. That this resolution shall constitute the declaration (or reaffirmation) of the District's "official intent" to reimburse the expenditures authorized in this resolution with the proceeds of the bonds, notes or other obligations authorized herein, as required by United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2.

Section 8. That this resolution shall take effect immediately..

Unanimously carried

Ed Data Cooperative Bid Program

Motion by Marc Smithers, seconded by Randa Harrington, approved the NY/Island cooperative bid program agreement, as recommended by the superintendent.

WHEREAS, General Municipal Law Section 119-0 specifically authorizes municipal Corporations and school districts to enter into agreements for "purchasing and making of contracts;" and

WHEREAS, the attached school district listing has explored and supported the establishment of a municipal cooperative purchasing group; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto desire a municipal cooperative purchasing group to effect economies in the purchasing and making of contracts for materials, supplies and public works; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of the parties hereto have approved this cooperative purchasing arrangement by appropriate resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and covenants set forth herein, it is mutually agreed as follows:

1. A municipal cooperative purchasing group to be known as the "NY/Island Cooperative Bid" (Purchasing Group) has been established.
2. Membership in such Purchasing Group shall be available to any school district or municipal Corporation in New York State, which, by appropriate resolution, adopts the provisions of this agreement.
3. The members of the Purchasing Group shall adopt such rules, regulations and procedures in the conformity with New York State bidding laws to effectuate the purposes of this Agreement.
4. The Purchasing Group may enter into agreements with contractors to assist the Purchasing Group in carrying out the purposes of this Agreement.
5. The Clarkstown Central School District shall serve as Lead Agency for the Purchasing Group.
6. Educational Data Services will serve as the Administrative Agent for the Purchasing Group to perform those ministerial functions required as per the Lead Agency.

Unanimously carried

PERSONNEL
Appointments

Motion by Ashley Moore, seconded by Randa Harrington, approved the following appointments, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Approved the following instructional substitutes for the 26-27 school year:

- Davina Cotton (uncertified)
- Victoria Brewster (uncertified)

Approved the following non-instructional substitutes for the 26-27 school year:

- Davina Cotton (teacher aide)
- Victoria Brewster (teacher aide)
- Darin Arnold (bus driver)
- Josh Hazelton (bus driver)

Approved Wendy Butler, Chelsey Aylor, and Rick Bull, who have completed the CA BOCES Lead Evaluator refresher training, as teacher evaluators for the 26-27 school year.

Approved the following people as athletic chaperones for the fall 2026 season:

- Erin Arnold
- Connie Schuld
- Heather Jaycox

- Laura Brace

Abolished the mental health counselor position held by Cassie Warnica, effective August 31, 2026, as a result of the loss of grant funding for the position. Mrs. Warnica will be placed on a preferred eligibility list for seven years for a mental health counselor opening at Belfast Central School.

Approved the following athletic appointments for the 25-26 school year:

- Morgan Hamer- Boys' Modified Soccer Coach
- Beth Hazelton- Varsity Indoor Track Coach
- Mackenzie Brinkman- Boys' Modified Soccer Bookkeeper
- Avery Grusendorf- Volunteer Assistant JV Volleyball Coach
- Angel Belcer- Girls' Modified Soccer Bookkeeper
- Matt Weaver- Volunteer Assistant Boys' JV Soccer Coach

Approved the following mentors for new teachers for the 26-27 school year:

- Josh Hazelton for Tobias Webb
- Jessica Bentley for Shauna Babbitt
- Carrie Flanagan for Amy Brundage

Approved Sarah Palmer to fill the long-term UPK teacher position effective August 31 through December 22, 2026. Ms. Palmer will be paid at Step A of the BTA contract.

Approved Alex Perkins to fill the long-term MS/HS Social Studies teacher position effective August 31 through October 29, 2026. Mr. Perkins will be paid at Step A of the BTA contract.

Approved Krista Harrington as a Fall Girls on the Run coach.

Approved Becca Ellsessor as an Odyssey of the Mind coach for the 26-27 school year.

Unanimously carried

Resignations

Motion by Randa Harrington, seconded by John Barney, approved the following resignations, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Accepted Carrie Flanagan's resignation for purposes of retirement effective December 31, 2026. Unanimously carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Randa Harrington, seconded by Marc Smithers, moved the Board into executive session at 6:05pm to discuss personnel or legal matters for purposes specified in the open meeting law. Unanimously carried

Motion by Randa Harrington, seconded by Ashley Moore, moved the Board out of executive session at 6:32pm to discuss personnel or legal matters for purposes specified in the open meeting law. Unanimously carried

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jonathan Barney, seconded by Randa Harrington, adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm.

Unanimously carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Gina Larrabee

District Clerk